Mandatory use of Ethanol

116. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ethanol derived from sugarcane *via* molasses route is considered to be the most cost effective and its use as fuel will have a wholesome impact not only on the sugar economy but also on the national economy;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to allow its use in petrol and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bureau of Indian Standard specifications for petrol already allows ethanol in petrol upto 5% (max.). Based on the experience of the three pilot projects launched in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, Government have decided to supply 5% ethanol-doped-petrol in the country in two phases. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharastra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh would be covered during phase I and rest of the States and union territories in phase II.

Apart from the existing three pilot projects, Government have also decided to launch 6 additional pilot projects; 1 in Andhra Pradesh, 2 in Punjab and 3 in Uttar Pradesh which are expected to be commissioned by March 2002.